

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒ no

Property Name: Benjamin Rice Mill, Parker's Mill, Bell's Mill Inventory Number: F-2-46
 Address: 2609 Point of Rocks Road Historic district: yes ☒ no
 City: Knoxville, MD Zip Code: 21758 County: Frederick
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Point of Rocks
 Property Owner: Marilyn V. and Ariel E. Bell Tax Account ID Number:
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 250 Tax Map Number: 92
 Project: MD 464 over Catoclin Creek Bridge Replacement Agency: FHWA/SHA
 Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration
 Preparer's Name: Anne E. Bruder Date Prepared: 04/10/2008
 Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance files;
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☒ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
 Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property:
 Inventory Number: Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
 Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: Date:

Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)

As explained in the MIHP and Addendum forms, the Benjamin Rice (or Bell's) Mill was first constructed in the late eighteenth century (possibly 1792) and improved in 1812 by Benjamin Rice. The ownership of the mill passed through several hands until the late nineteenth century when it was acquired in 1895 by William D. Bell. The Bell family continues to own the property. The remaining area surrounding the mill consists of a 1-1/2 story dwelling and five outbuildings with agricultural fields. Also included in the property are associated mill features: a head race or sluice gate, mill dam, head race and tail race. The spillway was not immediately evident. Although abandoned and falling into ruinous condition, the mill site continues to display features that exemplify the late eighteenth through mid-twentieth century construction and use of the buildings, as well as the continuous use of the site in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The Benjamin Rice Mill retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. Based on the research conducted by SHA, Rice Mill is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A, C and D. As a nearly intact example of a mill site, it is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of milling as an important industry in rural eighteenth and nineteenth century Frederick County. Under Criterion C, the nearly intact mill site exemplifies the design of a late eighteenth century mill with an overshot wheel and a 10-foot fall at the mill dam. Although falling

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

John J. [Signature]
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
[Signature]
 Reviewer, National Register Program

11/3/08
 Date
 11/5/08
 Date

200803161

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill, Parker's Mill, Bell's Mill

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into a ruinous condition, the mill site continues to have integrity, as does the dwelling. Under Criterion D, the mill can contribute an understanding to the role, layout and function of the mill and the lives of mill owners and workers in nineteenth and twentieth century Frederick County. No archeological excavation has taken place on this property, but it also is likely that archeological resources are present that can contribute to the information potential of the site.

The boundary for the Benjamin Rice Mill is confined to Frederick County Tax Map 92, Parcel No. 250 (2007), which contains all of the mill-related features.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Addendum

MIHP Number: F-2-46 (see also Site No. 18FR932)
Property Name: Benjamin Rice Mill; Parker's Mill, Mountain Mill, or (current)
Bell's Mill
Property Address: 2609 Point of Rocks Road, Jefferson, MD

Based on a field visit made by SHA Architectural Historian Anne E. Bruder and Archeologist April L. Fehr, the following buildings within the Benjamin Rice Mill property were identified on February 11, 2008. These buildings were not included in the MIHP form that Janet Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor, Frederick County Planning & Zoning, completed in August 1991. The buildings described below are those that stand near the dwelling or the mill. Aerial photographs of the site show additional buildings in the northern portion of the property which SHA did not see. These may remain standing but were not in the vicinity of SHA's survey.

DESCRIPTION

The Benjamin Rice or Bell's Mill is located on Catoctin Creek south of the town of Jefferson near Olive School. In addition to the mill building, there are a dwelling and five outbuildings, as well as associated mill appurtenances that were not described in the MIHP form for the mill. The mill stands on the east bank of Catoctin Creek, and the house and three outbuildings stand on the hill above the mill. Two other outbuildings are northwest of the mill near the driveway which extends to MD 464 along the banks of the creek.

House: The dwelling at the Benjamin Rice Mill is an example of a double pen building. The western portion has a center hall with one window on either side of the entrance. A second entrance is immediately to the south and it is paired with a window to the south and what is now an interior chimney that may have been exterior at one time. The double front entrance suggests that the smaller room was used by the public and the mill owners for conducting mill business. South of the main pile is an attached kitchen wing with a center entrance and one window on either side of the door. An exterior stone chimney is attached to the south wall. The stones of the south chimney are uncoursed rubble. Each chimney has been repaired, and appears to be either whitewashed or stuccoed. The exterior of the dwelling is clad in logs, but in some areas these have been covered over with German weatherboards, stucco or vinyl siding. The house has a recent side gable, standing seam, metal roof that has been extended to make a shed roof over the front porch. The porch extends across the front façade of the building, and the roof is supported by unadorned square posts. The windows are two over two sashes with smaller fixed windows in the second floor. The building sits on low stone piles or

concrete block and it was not possible to determine if there is a basement. The exterior stairs are made of concrete block and metal pipe railings.

Outbuildings: To the southeast of the dwelling are three outbuildings. Two have shed roofs while the third has a front gable roof. All three are wood frame and clad in vertical siding or clapboards. The largest of the sheds has a series of windows and a panel door. The middle shed has a door with four lights in the upper portion. The third shed has a sliding door. Each appears to be used for storage, but may have functioned as a stable, hen house, or other small domestic outbuilding.

Hip roof building: At the base of the hill, northwest of the mill is a three-bay hip roof building with three entry doors and a standing seam metal roof. The cladding is German siding, and the building is one story tall. It appears to be an early twentieth century garage.

Gable roof building: A two-story building with vertical siding with a base of decorative concrete blocks and a metal standing seam roof is immediately to the west of the hip roof building. The barn does not appear to be in active use.

Mill Building and associated features: In addition to the description provided in 1991, the site still retains many features of the mill. The mill is square and has three bays on each wall. It has a stone ground floor, the first and second floors are clad in brick, and the gable ends are of weatherboard. In the two gable walls, there are two windows at the attic, but one window in the peak of the gable. The brick is laid in a pattern that the Frederick City architectural context states was typical of a bonding pattern found there from the late eighteenth century to 1820. The pattern is three rows of stretcher bricks, topped with a row of headers. The mill has an attic and a basement as well as two floors which were used when the mill was fully functioning. Grain would be cleaned in the attic after being lifted up from the main (first) floor, while the other equipment would be placed in the ground floor at the same level as the waterwheel. The mill dam is located approximately 1,000 feet north of the mill on the north side of the MD 464 Bridge. It is a rock dam that has collapsed somewhat over time. An 1880 advertisement states that the mill dam had a 10-foot fall, and photos from 1933 show some of its features. There is exposed wooden cribbing that is part of the dam framing on the north side of the bridge. When the MD 464 Bridge was constructed in 1933 and 1934, the State Roads Commission constructed two concrete retaining walls and affixed the sluice gate to the one attached to the east bridge abutment. Water was channeled between Pier D and the creek bank into the head race. The head race remains parallel to the creek along its east bank. It is somewhat overgrown, but very evident. The mill pond and wheel pit are present on the creek side of the mill and a tail race extends back to Catoctin Creek south of the mill. The stone wall between the wheel pit and the tail race has an arch that allows the water through it. Although SHA was not allowed into the mill structure, it appears from the outside that much of the milling machinery is present. McGrain notes an advertisement from the *American Miller* dated April 1, 1880, which described the millwheel as an overshot wheel that was 9 feet broad. A large millstone is leaning against the structure facing the house (this stone may not be original to the Rice Mill. On

February 11, 2008, SHA staff spoke to Mrs. Hanson, the owner of the Lewis Mill, who indicated that Mr. Charles Bell worked at the Lewis Mill in the 1960s and 1970s and took equipment away from it for his mill. John McGrain first photographed the mill stone outside the mill in 1973, and it remains there thirty-five years later.) There are several descriptions of the mill building in John McGrain's *Mollinography of Maryland* (2007), Davis' 1991 MIHP form and a new book about milling near Brunswick in Frederick County, *In Search of Our History: The Water-Power Flour and Grist Mills of the Brunswick Region*, by Peter Maynard (2004). Although written at various times in the past thirty years, the descriptions do not vary, and this reflects the limited access historians have been granted to the property. The Rice Mill was closed in the early 1960s, and as a result of the abandonment and disuse, the building is falling into a ruinous condition. The Bell family members continue to live on the property.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Rice Mill has existed in the same location since at least 1812, and possibly since 1792. While Benjamin Rice may have designed the mill, it is unlikely that he was also the millwright who would have been the builder. Additional research is needed to determine if millwrights in Maryland in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries can be identified, and if one can be associated with the Rice Mill's construction. In 1815, the mill was described as a "merchant and saw mill" in the Laws of Maryland, Acts of 1815, Chapter 46. It is not clear if there were two buildings, or the one building contained two functions, which was the case in some instances. The term merchant mill describes a mill which was owned by a merchant who hired a miller and additional staff to run the mill for profit. By 1860, the mill's ownership had passed to the miller, who may have been a woman, Maria Louisa Parker, and Edward Parker, her son. At that time the Rice Mill was a grist mill, called Mountain Mill. A saw mill on the property had recently been improved, but again it is not clear if this was a separate building or a function within the grist mill (McGrain's Revised Mollinography, 2007, pp. 25-26). Grist mills were plentiful in Frederick County starting in the eighteenth century. Scharf (1882:369) identified eighty grist mills in the county in 1791. These mills helped to support the local farming communities and employed a significant number of individuals. The Bell family's ownership began in 1895 with the acquisition of the property by William D. Bell, who operated it as a flour mill. The term grist milling described grinding wheat for flour, and the miller also ground other grains for human consumption as well as animal feed. While the diversity of grist milling could make the mill more profitable, it did not require as clean materials or as sharp stones as flour milling alone. Charles Bell, William's son became the miller in the 1930s, and he ran the mill until the late 1950s or early 1960s.

Sufficient features, including the mill dam, mill race, wheel pit, and tail race are present to clearly demonstrate the purposeful location of the mill on the banks of Catoctin Creek to meet the needs of its industrial function. The property demonstrates the spatial organization necessary for the functioning of the mill as an industrial site. The layout of the property also speaks to the relationship between the property's domestic and industrial functions. The dwelling once had both private and public functions – living

quarters and conducting mill business – that is demonstrated by the location of two exterior doors in the northern portion of the house. Likewise, the agricultural outbuildings and fields show that milling was not a year round occupation. The setting of the mill property continues to be rural and agricultural, although residential development is occurring around the Bell property. The property also had access to the network of roads, and was two-and-one-half miles distant from the B&O Railroad, which helped to move the products of the mill. One of the interesting aspects of the Rice Mill is the way that the needed mill features were integrated into the “new” 1934 State Roads Commission Bridge over Catocin Creek. SHA Right-of-Way Plat 677 from 1933 illustrate features of the mill property at that time, including the old bridge, mill race, head race gate and mill dam. The nineteenth or early twentieth century one lane bridge was destroyed during construction of the 1934 bridge. However, the mill dam was maintained and the head race gate was incorporated into the new bridge by constructing retaining walls and a new gate to direct water from the mill pond into the race and to support the head gate. These features remain and clearly signify the integration of the needs of the industrial site into the newly designed transportation structure. The mill continued to operate into the mid-twentieth century. However, at least the exterior of the mill structure was not modernized and this structure in its setting clearly conveys the nineteenth century origins of the industry in this place.

The Rice Mill structures also retain integrity of materials. The stone and brick used for the exterior construction of the mill have not been modified, and the windows and doors that remain appear to be original. The roof appears to have been replaced, but it is an in-kind replacement. Although access to the interior of the mill structure was denied, mill machinery was evident to the rear of the mill and appears to be present on the interior. The log dwelling and outbuildings also retain original or in-kind replacement materials that continue to convey the type of vernacular construction that is the predominate design mode of the complex.

The Rice mill property retains sufficient relational and landscape elements to convey the historic sense of a nineteenth century mill property. Although the outbuildings are deteriorating, their relationship to the mill structure is clearly defined and exemplifies the domestic, agricultural and industrial uses of the property. While the mill was in use into the twentieth century, it was little modified on the exterior and, because of the still rural nature of the property, clearly represents the feeling of a nineteenth century industrial site.

The mill property is sufficiently intact to convey the sense of the property's historic character as a nineteenth century industrial site in Frederick County. SHA has determined that it is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and the attached DOE explains the determination.

Prepared by Anne E. Bruder, Architectural Historian, and April L. Fehr, Archeologist,
Maryland State Highway Administration July 16, 2008

Works Cited:

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McGrain, John, Revised Mollinography, 2007, available from the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD

Scharf, J. Thomas, *1882 History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia, PA. Reprint. Baltimore Regional Publishing Company 1968.*

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RACE GATE
RETAINING WALLS

WILL DAM
REMAINT

SHARP BRIDGE

DRIVEWAY
MILL RACE

BAG
SACKAGE

HOUSE

MILL

TAIL RACE

SHED

SHEDS
2 3 3

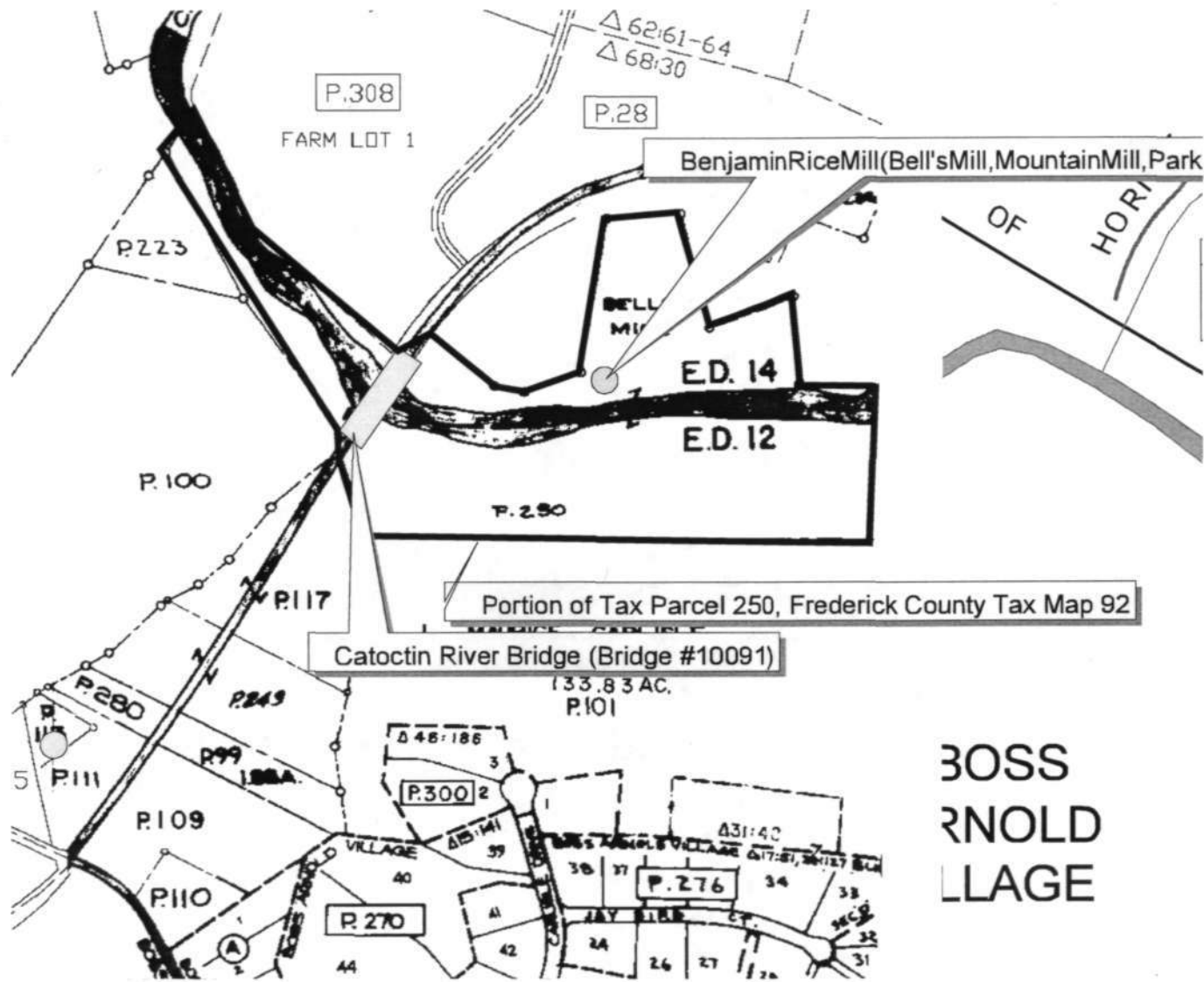
Paul's Mill
PROPERTY
SITE MAP.
NOT TO SCALE.
N

CATOCTIN CREEK

Portion of Parcel 250 as shown on Frederick County Tax Map 92 (2007)

Scale: 1:12,000

F-2-46



BOSS
RNOLD
LLAGE

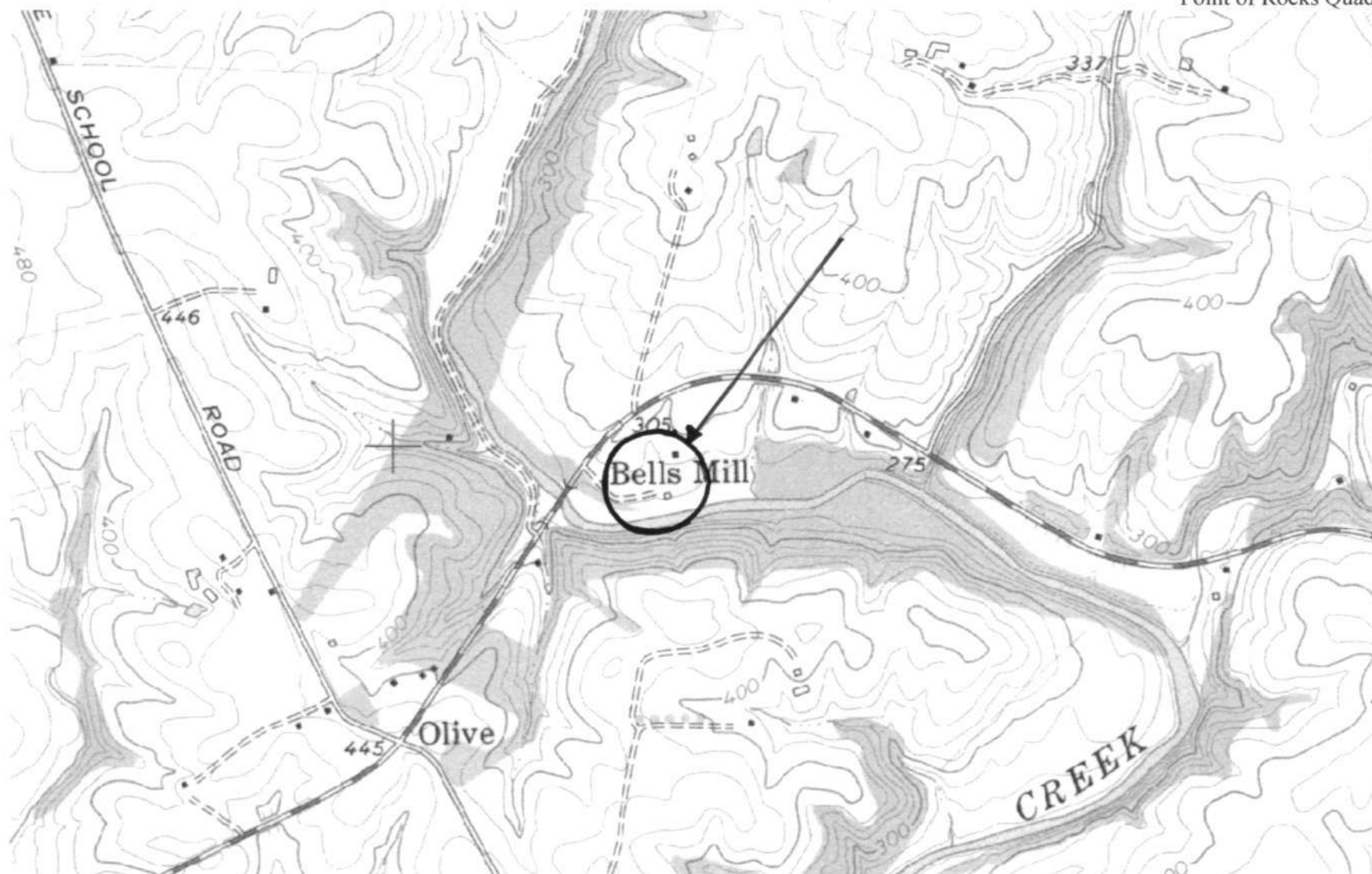
Maryland Inventory of Historic Places
County



F-2-46



MIHP No. F-2-~~0~~46
Benjamin Rice Mill
Frederick County
Point of Rocks Quad





F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mu-Be's House

FEDERICK Co., MD.

A B RICE

2/2008

MDSHP

LOOKING AT ~~SOUTH~~ (N.W.) FACADE
FROM SOUTH WEST

1/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - RICE'S HOUSE

FREDERICK CO., MD.

A BRIDGE

2/2000

INDSNPO.

LOOKING AT SOUTH FAÇADE FROM
SOUTH EAST.

2/



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - ~~SNOW~~ #1

FREDERICK CO., MD

A Drunder

2/2000.

IND. SNOW

LOOKING NORTH AT SNOW #1

SOUTH FACADE

3/21



F-Z-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - SHEDS ZQ 3

FREDERICK CO., MD

A. BENDER.

2/2008

VMD SAPO

LOOKING NORTH EAST AT SOUTH
FACADES OF SHEDS ZQ 3

4/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - MILL BUILDING
FREDERICK CO., MD.
A. BENDER.

2/2000.

MIDCAPO.

LOOKING AT NORTH FACADE OF
BEN'S MILL

5/21



F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill - Mill Bldg.
Frederick Co., MD

N. Bender.

7/2000.

INDS. PO.

LOOKING SOUTHWEST AT BEN'S
MILL & OTHER FACADE

6/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - MILL RIDE,
FREDERICK CO., MD.

A. FORRER.

7/2008.

AND SNPO.

LOOKING AT NORTH & WEST FACADES
OF RICE'S MILL

7/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE Mill - Mill Bldg.
FREDERICK CO., MD.

A. RICE

2/2000

MD SAPO

LOOKING AT NORTH DEER PARK'S
Mill

8/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - EQUIPMENT.

FREDERICK CO., MD

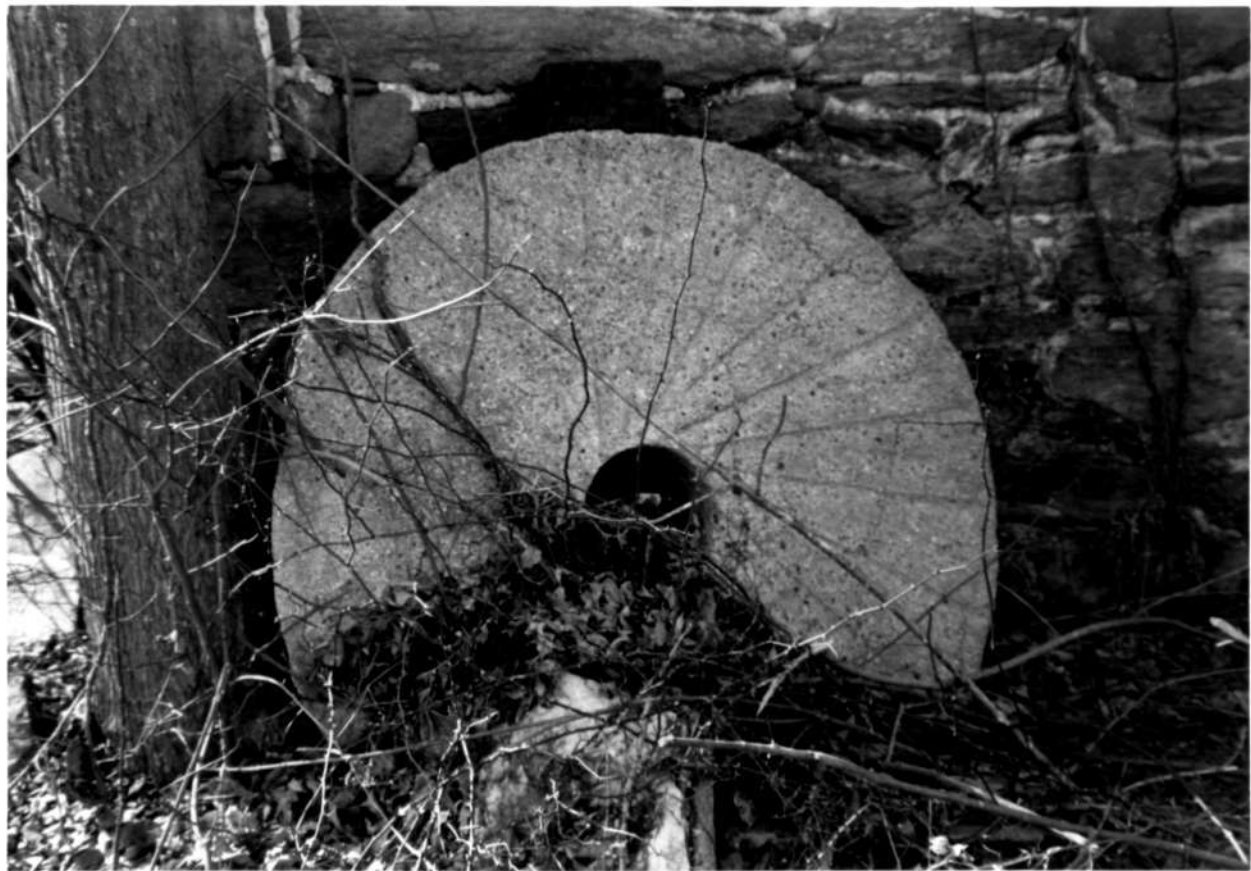
A. BENDER.

2/2000.

MD SAFO.

LOOKING AT EQUIPMENT IN PASSENGER

10/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL-WHEEL.

FREDERICK CO., MD

D. BRONSON

2/2008.

MD SHPO.

LOOKING SOUTH AT MILLSTONE
AGAINST NORTH FACADE.

9/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN REE MUSE - V MUSE Bldg.
FREDERICK CO., MD.

A. FORUNDER,

2/2008

MID SAPO.

LOOKING NORTH WEST AT SOUTH
EAST FACADES

11/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN DECE WIRE - MIN. PRG.

FREDERICK CO., MD

A. PRANDER

2/2000.

MD SAPO

LOOKING WEST AT TAIL RACE

12/21



F-2-46

BRAMMINS REE MILL - WHEEL HOUSE
ROOF (COLLAPSED)

FREDERICK CO., MD

H. BRADY.

2/2008

MD SAFO.

LOOKING SOUTH AT WHEEL'S
ROOF

13/21



F-2-48

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - MILL EQUIP-
MENT

FREDERICK CO., MD.

A. BRUDER.

2/2008.

VMD SAPO.

LOOKING EXT AT MILL GEAR

14/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - HEAD RACE
FREDERICK CO., MD

A. RICE

2/2000

WINDSHP.

LOOKING WEST AT MILL RACE

15/21



F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill - SUICE. OR

~~HEAD~~ RICE GATE RETAINING WALL
Frederick Co. MD

A. Browder.

2/2000

MD SHA

LOOKING WEST AT MILL'S RETAIN-
ING WALL AT SNA BRIDGE.

16/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - HEAD RACE.
GATE RETAINING WALL.

FREDERICK CO., MD.

A BRIDGE

2/2008

MD SHPO

LOOKING NORTH AT REMAINS OF
GATE RETAINING WALL

17/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN TACE MILL - MILL DAM
RUINS.

FREDERICK CO., MD

A. PARKER

2/2008

IND SHPO

LOOKING SOUTH AT MILL DAM

18/21



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MILL - HEAD RACE.
FREDERICK CO., MD.

A. RICE.

2/2000.

MD SAPO.

LOOKING EAST AT MILL RACE

19/71



F-2-46

BENJAMIN RICE MML - GARAGE/OUTSIDE
FREDERICK CO. MD

A. PARKER

2/2008

MIDSHPO.

LOOKING NORTH AT GARAGE

20/74



F-2-46

BENJAMIN TACE MILL - FARM, FORT BLYDE

FREDERICK CO., MD.

A. BENDER

2/2008

MD SALES.

LOOKING WEST AT FARM

21/21

F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill (preferred); Parker's Mill, Mountain Mill
Jefferson, Maryland
Private

Ca. 1812

The Benjamin Rice Mill is a two-story brick grist mill with a raised stone foundation and a gable roof located on Catoctin Creek near Point of Rocks Road. Built about 1812, it is similar in appearance to the Lewis Mill (National Register; F-2-1), an 1810 brick mill also on Catoctin Creek. The mill may, have been originally built as early as the 1790's, but Benjamin Rice improved it in 1812, probably giving the building its current form. It reflects the increasing development of the Middletown Valley in the early 19th century as the need for grist and saw mills became widespread.

F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill (preferred); Parker's Mill, Mountain Mill
Jefferson
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Hardford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties,
and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Industry/Processing/Extraction/manufacturing facility/mill

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

Benjamin Rice Mill (preferred); Parker's Mill;
historic Mountain Mill

and/or common Bell's Mill

2. Location

street & number 2609 Point of Rocks Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Jefferson ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: not in use

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Marcelene S. Bell

street & number 2609 Point of Rocks Road telephone no.:

city, town Knoxville state and zip code Md. 21758

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1212

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 196

city, town Frederick state Maryland 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-2-46

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Benjamin Rice Mill is a two story brick industrial building erected about 1812 on the north side of Catoctin Creek just south of Point of Rocks Road (Maryland Route 464) near Jefferson, Frederick County, Maryland. The gable-roofed building has three bays on its west elevation, the principal entrance facade, and a raised, coursed rubble stone foundation. A one-story porch was once attached to the west elevation, as indicated by marks on the brick surface above the first floor openings. The roof is standing seam metal. The condition of the building is rather deteriorated, although the window openings are mostly intact. A frame shed over the wheel location on the south side has collapsed. The interior of the mill was not available for description.

The building is roughly rectangular in shape with its ridge running north-south. The walls are laid in 3-course American bond. The west elevation has a center entrance with a Dutch door of vertical boards and a 5-light transom. The missing one-story porch sheltered the door and the south window bay, perhaps connecting with the frame structure on the south elevation which is now in ruins. The windows on the first story are 6/6, with gauged brick arches. The second story windows are 9/6. The raised stone foundation extends to the sill level of the first floor windows. A box cornice terminates the wall at the gable roof of standing seam metal. The north elevation reveals the german sided gables of the mill. On this elevation, there are two bays with a loading door in the center of the second story. A mill stone rests near the foundation on this elevation. The east elevation gives the clearest view of the race as it enters the base of the mill through a round stone arch. The race is still filled with water, but does not flow and the top of the arch is barely visible above the water level. The south elevation, as stated, has the ruins of a frame structure which apparently sheltered the wheel.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-2-46

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1812 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Benjamin Rice Mill is a good example of a rural industrial structure of the first quarter of the 19th century. Similar in design, materials, and form to the circa 1810 Lewis Mill (National Register; F-2-1), which is also on Catoctin Creek, the Rice Mill apparently dates from about 1812, although the 1808 Varle map of Frederick and Washington Counties shows a mill symbol near its location. It also exemplifies the increasing development of the Middletown Valley, where the number of mills indicated on Varle's map shows the demand for milling services in the valley was already widespread.

The context of milling in the Middletown Valley is not yet complete; only the Rice and Lewis Mills have been identified so far. However, the significance of the Lewis Mill was in part based on its brick structure being unusual among the known early mills of Frederick County, most of which are stone. The Rice Mill's exterior appearance at least indicates that brick mills may have been more common than was previously believed. Since its interior has not been documented, it is difficult to compare the Rice Mill with the Lewis Mill. The Lewis Mill retains its original wheel; this may be the differentiating significance between it and the Rice Mill.

A local source, Ralph D. F. Martz, described the mill as having been built in 1792 by Rice. The construction qualities of the building suggest, however, that it is largely, if not entirely, an early 19th century structure. This is supported by a newspaper reference in 1812 which mentions that Rice was improving the mill site, while petitioning for road improvements in its vicinity (*Herald*, August 29, 1812). Rice operated both a grist and a saw mill at the site. The existing building was the grist mill, which operated until the 1960's or 1970's and was known as Bell's Mill from about 1895 onwards. Other names associated with the Rice Mill are Mountain Mills (1830's to 1860's), Parker's Mill (1860's to 1890's), and Catoctin Mill No. 10 (date uncertain). In the 1850's and 1860's, it was the center of a small complex of buildings including the saw mill, three distilleries, a cooper shop, and a blacksmith shop. No trace of these buildings is visible except for a 1-1/2 story log house north of the mill, now occupied by the property owner, which may date from the 1850's, a tractor shed/corn crib of the last quarter of the 19th century, and an early 20th century frame garage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-2-46

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.

McGrain, John, unpublished material on Parker's Mill, including Herald, August 29, 1812, and statement by Ralph D.F. Martz, Jan. 26, 1977. Photocopy of McGrain research available in Frederick County Planning & Zoning.

Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acreQuadrangle name Point of Rocks, Md.-Va.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately a one-acre circle centered on the mill building including a section of the mill race.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning

date August, 1991

street & number 12 E. Church Street

telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick

state Maryland 21701

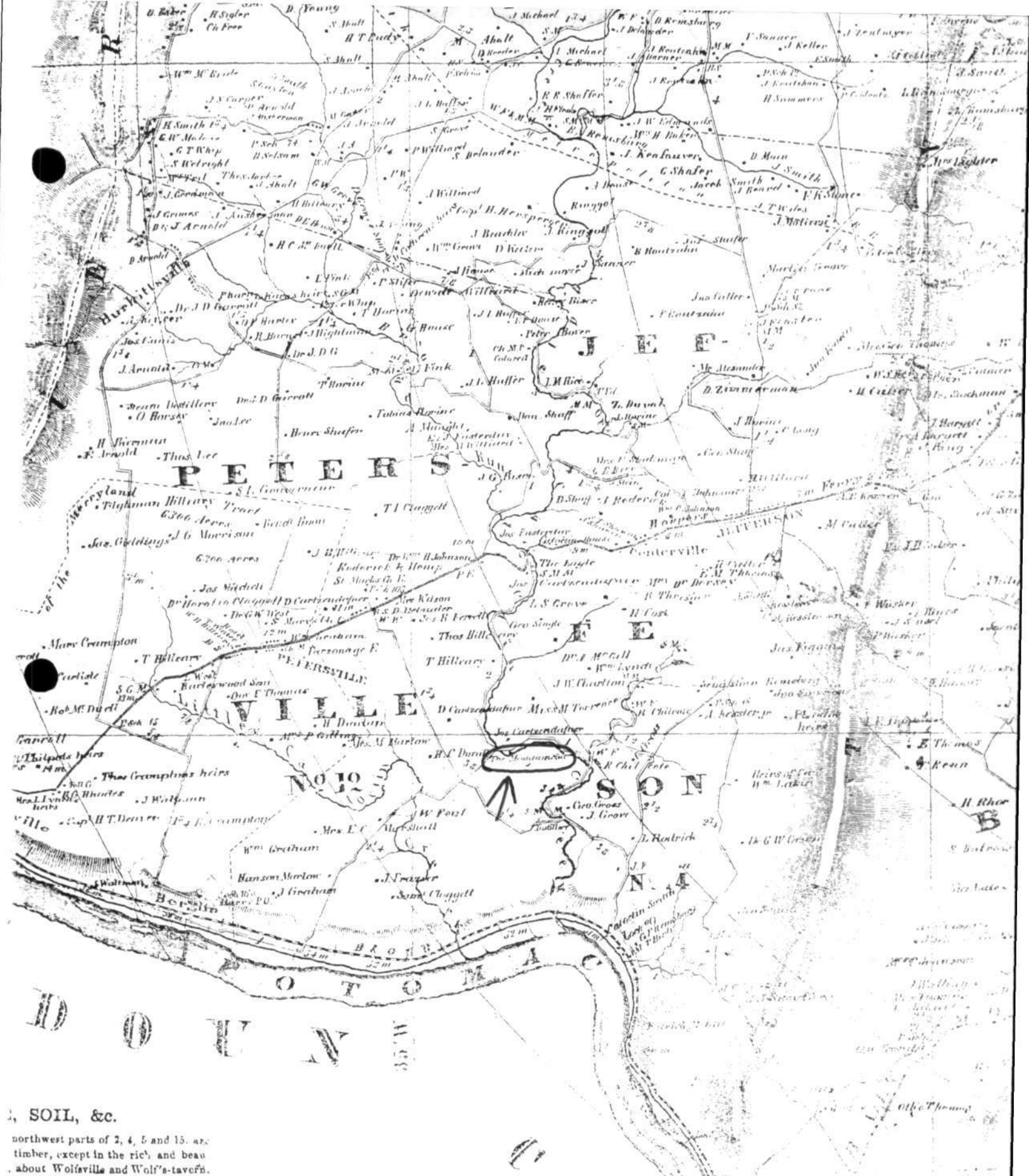
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

Bells Mill 2609 Point of Rocks Rd M92 P250 #62					
LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1212/196 14 Sep. 83	Margaret S. Bell et al.	Marilyn V. Bell, Ariel E. Bell, pers. reps. of Estate of Charles William Bell, deceased 11 Feb 83	Parcel #2, formerly known as "Parker's Mills" 43A.		
510/298 19 Dec. 52	Charles W. Bell of Knoxville	Helen Brooks Ouent Henry W. Ouent, husb. & daughters Winifred & Cora & husb. of New Haven, Conn.			
AF7/451 14 Sep. 1883	Silghman Brooks	Thomas Henderson			
AF4/417 13 Apr 1881	Thomas Henderson	Silghman Brooks		\$312.50	
CM4/431 12 Jan 1870	Silghman Brooks	Samuel & Elizabeth Clagett	60a. Lots #4 & 8 of a woodland tract purchased from Thos H. Clagett	\$803.12 1/2	
CM2/553 30 Nov 1868	Samuel Clagett	Thos. H. & Lala Clagett	"Fielders" (sp?) 30 1/4 A.	\$5400	



1. SOIL, &c.

northwest parts of 2, 4, 5 and 13. are
timber, except in the rich and beau-
tiful about Wolfsville and Wolf's-tavern.

1. at productive and picturesque
going predominate in Epidote, Mica
with Iron, Copper, &c.

come the "Red Lands,"—a narrow
ring much Calico Marble; but extend-
ing 4, 5 and 15, the northwest parts of
ruled from Red Clay Slates or Shales;
productiveness, with Limestone near
are three miles south.

2. with the northwest of 13 and south-

FOR CHILDREN'S FIRST LESSONS ABOUT
HOME.—Spread the map upon a table or clean floor,
with the right hand side toward the sunrise, and the
left hand side toward the sunset, to make it correspond
with the country. The bottom and top may be rolled
up to within 6 inches or a foot of home, to admit of
getting near that part

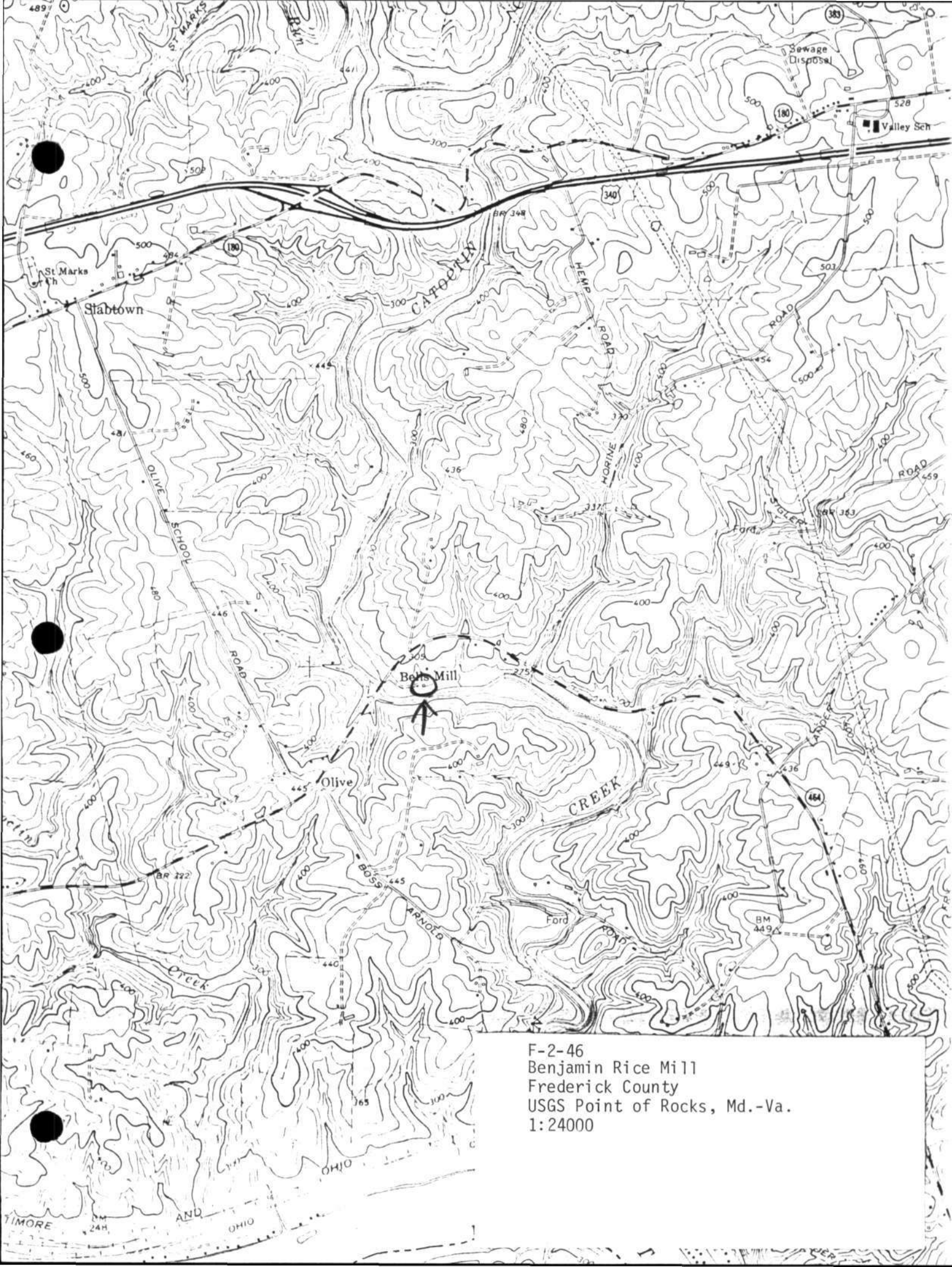
Then the learners should look over the map in a line
with home and every place they notice, and thus learn

F-2-46
Benjamin Rice Mill
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,
1858.

Scale 1

BUCK
(Buckeystown Dist.)

F-2-46
Benjamin Rice Mill
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.



F-2-46
Benjamin Rice Mill
Frederick County
USGS Point of Rocks, Md.-Va.
1:24000



F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill

Frederick County

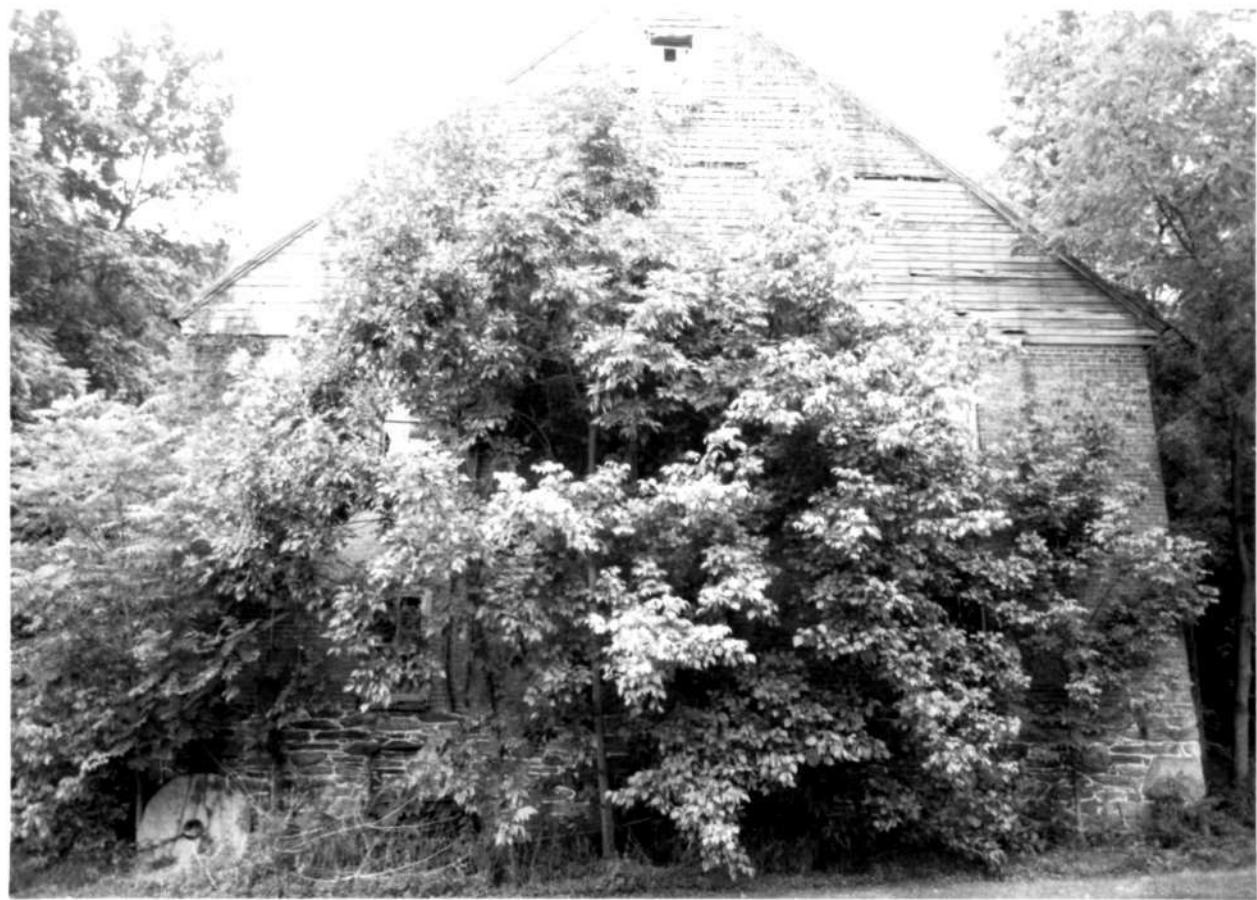
Photo: Janet Davis

August 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

West elevation

1/3



F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

August 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

North elevation

2/3



F-2-46

Benjamin Rice Mill

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

August 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

East elevation

3/3